

Appl. No. 09/900,370  
Amdt. Dated March 16, 2004  
Reply to Office action of December 24, 2003



2615/\$  
#710  
3-22-04  
**PATENT** JC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/900,370      **Confirmation No. :6021**  
Applicant : Noboru Takada  
Filed : July 6, 2001  
TC/AU : 2615  
Examiner: : Tia M. Harris  
Docket No. : 33781  
Customer No.: 116

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAR 2 2 2004

Technology Center 2600

**AMENDMENT "A"**

Sir:

By this amendment, twenty-one total claims are now pending in this application which include five independent claims. A check in the amount of \$190 is enclosed to cover the fee for one total claim in excess of twenty and two total independent claims in excess of three.

In response to the Office action of December 24, 2003, paper no. 6, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

03/19/2004 HVUONG1 00000016 09900370

01 FC:1201      172.00 OP  
02 FC:1202      18.00 OP

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Robert F. Bodi

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

03-16-2003

Date

Signature of Attorney